

ADOLESCENT SERVICES

Re-Entry to the Adolescent Services Program

42-8

Policy

The Department of Children and Families may offer a youth who was committed as of his or her 18th birthday and subsequently left DCF care the opportunity to re-enter DCF's Adolescent Services Program.

Eligibility

A youth may apply for re-entry to the Adolescent Services Program if the youth:

- was committed as abused, neglected or uncared, or dually committed, at the time of his or her 18th birthday;
- left DCF care after age 18, but before age 21, and did not participate in two post-secondary education or employment training programs;
- has had his or her case closed for at least 90 days in LINK, or has had services discontinued for at least 90 days;
- has proof of an educational plan or employment, including transcripts, certificates, report cards, proof of enrollment or acceptance or start date letters;
- is not married; and
- is not on active duty with any of the armed forces of the United States.

If a youth has not attained a secondary school diploma and is pursuing a GED, approval from the Commissioner or Regional Administrator or designee shall be required for re-entry. A youth who has been approved to attend a GED program shall be required to accept additional support services that may include tutoring, in order for the youth to complete the GED in six months. These youth shall be encouraged to simultaneously enroll in an employment training program or sequentially pursue a post-secondary education or training program.

If a youth seeking re-entry has been determined, as a result of a substance abuse assessment, to be in need of in-patient or extensive outpatient treatment, the youth shall be encouraged to complete treatment prior to re-entry.

Youth who have already participated in two post-secondary educational or employment opportunities are not eligible for re-entry.

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Program Components Adolescents who are approved for re-entry may be eligible to participate in appropriate services as determined by DCF. These services include, but are not limited to:

- referrals to community services;
- referrals to obtain medical, behavioral health, substance abuse, cognitive, educational and vocational evaluations;
- referrals for trauma assessment or treatment;
- assistance with coordination of services;
- case management services;
- assistance with obtaining needed documents ;
- assistance with obtaining medical benefits ;
- financial assistance for secondary or post-secondary educational and vocational programming; and
- assistance with transitioning to community providers.

The primary focus of re-entry shall be post-secondary education or training. Re-entry shall not be construed as a housing program.

Process for Requesting Re-entry Services A youth who wishes to re-enter DCF care shall initiate the process by calling the DCF Careline.

The Regional Re-entry Liaison shall:

- review the request;
 - review the LINK closing summary for history and basic information;
 - review hearing outcomes ;
 - contact the previous Social Worker to assess the viability of the applicant and obtain a recommendation;
 - consult with the post-secondary education staff on the educational plan;
 - contact and consult with DMHAS and DDS, if applicable;
 - contact the applicant to schedule an interview;
 - assess or refer the applicant for medical and behavioral health, substance abuse and educational evaluations and services, as appropriate;
 - send the youth the [DCF-2095, "Application for Re-Entry to Adolescent Services Program,"](#) by certified mail or email;
 - document the re-entry request and outcome in LINK; and
 - obtain the Commissioner's waiver, if necessary for policy exceptions.
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**Process for
Requesting
Re-entry
Services
(continued)**

The youth shall:

- be willing to sign the [DCF-2131\(T\), "Release of Information;"](#)
 - be willing to cooperate with educational, vocational, behavioral health and substance abuse assessments as recommended;
 - provide proof of acceptance to or enrollment in an educational or vocational program;
 - provide secondary and post-secondary education documentation (e.g., transcripts, report cards, diploma);
 - provide proof of substance abuse screening, if applicable;
 - provide a letter from a behavioral health provider, if applicable.
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